

**From:** vj watson [mailto:h2oshed1@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2011 7:11 PM  
**To:** FS-comments-northern-helena  
**Subject:** Mike Horse

I wish to provide these comments on the USFS repository siting proposal for the Mike Horse mine impoundment wastes.

The wastes need to be moved to a more stable location, less subject to movement by runoff and erosion. The hills above the waste impoundment are now covered with dead trees. It is just a matter of time before there is a fire, and the next heavy rain on snow event will produce much more runoff once there are no trees there to slow and infiltrate water. This puts the impoundment at risk for failure.

The site that currently looks like the best option is the section 35 site. Groundwater behavior at the site must be characterized over the seasons, but hopefully once that information is available, it will still be an acceptable site.

The section 35 site slopes away from the Blackfoot, has gentle benched topography and higher seismic safety factors than the current location of the wastes.

Regrettably, it appears that another road will be needed to keep the heavy haul traffic off HWYs 200 & 279 -- that haul road should be reclaimed after the project.

I hope you will keep this project moving forward.

Thank you,

Vicki Watson, resident of Missoula